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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.
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25X1A

COUNTRY Yugoslavia
SUBJECT Industrial Combine in Zenica
PLACE 25X1A
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**SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. Before World War II the Industrial Combine in Zenica, one of the largest of its kind in Yugoslavia, played a very important role in the development of Yugoslav heavy industry. From 1945 to 1949 reconstruction of the old factory buildings and construction of new installations were undertaken. The work has not yet been fully completed.
2. The Industrial Combine in Zenica is a federal combine which administratively and operationally comes under the jurisdiction of the Ministry for Heavy Industry in Belgrade. Engineer Mladen Plavsic is the present director of the combine. Of the 16,000 workers employed there, forty-five percent are women who have been trained to operate the machinery. Work is conducted in three eight-hour shifts. Workers are reportedly dissatisfied with poor working conditions, despite messes and stores where they may buy at reduced rates. Several strikes occurred in December 1949, when workers demanded better working conditions, better pay, and less work. The instigators of the strike were arrested by the UDB and several of them were shot.
3. The present production of the combine is estimated to be three times that of the pre-war scale. Recently, the output has been largely confined to steel and railroad tracks. Prior to the break with the Cominform, sizeable quantities of materials were exported to satellite countries, but now the output is channeled entirely into the home market. Among the important products of the combine is steel, which enters the domestic industrial market. The production of iron, another important product, covers 49 percent of the domestic demand. The iron produced here goes into the manufacture of various traverses, that is, traverse plates, squares and semi-circles, various types of spikes (nails), and other industrial materials.
4. The raw materials used in the combine are obtained from the Ljubovija and Vares mines and are transported by rail. The necessary fuel is supplied by coal extracted from a mine located in the immediate vicinity of the combine. Other necessary equipment is obtained from domestic industries, and only a few unspecified items have to be imported.

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Comment: A plan of the lay-out, with accompanying legend, is available upon request.

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